

FAA Facts

Federal Aviation Administration
2005

HOW DOES THAT WORK? **AVIATION MAINTENANCE SCHOOL CERTIFICATION AND THE FAA**

The Process

In order for a school to offer a FAA certificated (correct) Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program, it must meet certain requirements as outlined in 14 CFR Part 147 of the Federal Aviation Regulations.

When a school or program applies for certification, the FAA forms a specialized team to work with the school to ensure that all requirements are met. The process of meeting all requirements can take several weeks to months. After certification, the FAA will monitor the school to ensure the program is operated in accordance with the Federal Aviation Regulations. The school's certificate remains effective until it is surrendered, suspended or revoked.

AMT programs prepare mechanics for work on all types of aircraft. One of the requirements of FAA certification is the production of a specific number of graduates who can apply for their mechanic's certificates within 60 days, and pass the FAA written tests on first attempt within 24 months (14 CFR 147.38a).

Each school must adhere to its approved curriculum, and with FAA approval, may teach subjects at levels exceeding those listed in the regulations.

Application

To apply for a certificate, a school must submit a description of the proposed curriculum; a list of the facilities and materials to be used; a list of instructors, including the kinds of certificates and ratings held, as well as certificate numbers; and a statement of the maximum amount of students it expects to teach at any one time. The facilities, equipment and materials specified must be in place before a certificate can be issued.

Review and Faculty

It may take several months for the FAA to review the curriculum and other materials and ensure that all requirements have been met.

At least one certificated instructor must be provided for each 25 students in shop class. However, specialized instructors, who are not certificated mechanics, may be

employed to teach mathematics, physics, basic electricity, basic hydraulics, drawing and similar subjects. The school is required to maintain a list of names and qualifications of specialized instructors, and provide this list to the FAA upon request.

Graduation Requirements

The curriculum must offer at least the following number of hours of instruction for the rating shown, and the instruction unit hour shall not more less than 50 minutes in length:

1. Airframe – 1,150 hours (400 general and 750 airframe).
2. Powerplant – 1,150 hours (400 general plus 750 powerplant).
3. Combined Airframe and Powerplant – 1,900 hours (400 general plus 750 airframe and 750 powerplant).

The curriculum must cover a variety of basic subjects as listed in Appendices A, B and C of the regulations, including basic electricity, physics, mathematics, corrosion control, welding, assembly, landing gear systems, communications systems, instrument systems, fuel systems, instrument systems, electrical systems and others.

When all of the requirements have been met, the FAA will issue the school a certificate. Generally, the entire process, from application to review and inspection, takes six to 18 months.

#####